

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 200935Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 279

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER TAIWAN REACTION TO NOV 14 US-PRC COMMUNIQUE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: TAIPEI 6904

1. SO FAR, US-PRC NOV 14 COMMUNIQUE HAS NOT STIRRED A STRONG PUBLIC REACTION IN TAIWAN, PARTLY BECAUSE OF LIMITED ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND GOVERNMENT DECISION TO LOW KEY ISSUE. AMONG MORE ELITE ELEMENTS, HOWEVER, INITIAL MOOD OF RELIEF REPORTED REFTEL HAS NOW CHANGED TO ONE OF OF WORRY AND SOME FOREBODING. SUCH PEOPLE, IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT, SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT UNDERSTANDINGS NOT REFLECTED IN COMMUNIQUE WERE REACHED DURING SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH MAO AND CHOU AND WILL BECOME KNOWN ONLY OVER TIME, THOUGH MOFA PROFESSIONALS CONTINUE TO CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE TEXT FOR CLUES. AT SAME TIME, THERE IS ALSO TENDENCY TO SEE BOTH LATEST VISIT AND NEW COMMUNIQUE NOT NECESSARILY AS IMPORTANT IN THEMSELVES, BUT RATHER AS PART OF PROCESS WHICH AT THIS POINT SEEMS BOUND TO LEAD TO
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ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL US-PRC RELATIONS, POSING FAR

GREATER CHALLENGE TO SURVIVAL THAN ROC HAS FACED UP TO NOW.

2. COMMUNIQUE STILL HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED (EXCEPT IN TRUNCATED VERSION IN ONE PAPER), BUT EDITORIALS ON SUBJECT HAVE QUOTED RATHER LIBERALLY FROM TEXT. MOST SIGNIFICANT AND EXTENSIVE EDITORIAL COMMENT SINCE REFTEL APPEARED IN CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO NOV 18. SKSP SAW "ANTI-HEGEMONY" LANGUAGE AS US ATTEMPT GAIN PRC SUPPORT ON MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEM; INTERPRETED NORMALIZATION ON BASIS OF ONE CHINA PRINCIPLE AS INDICATING CONTINUED ABSENCE OF ANY US-PRC AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO TAIWAN; BUT CRITICIZED SECRETARY'S NOV 13 TOAST ("WE CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN FUTURE, PROGRESS MADE IN OUR RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW") AS AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT FOR FUTURE WHICH "NO US SECRETARY OF STATE HAS EVER MADE OR IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE." CKSP CONCLUDED THAT WHILE US-PRC RELATIONS STILL HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND SCOPE OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, THEY NOW ARE ON VERGE OF DOING SO, WITH INEVITABLE DAMAGE TO ROC POSITION AND US-ROC RELATIONS. THEREFORE, "WE MUST DARE TO FACE REALITY BOLDLY...MUST KNOW FUTURE OF OUR NATION HINGES COMPLETELY ON OUR OWN EFFORTS AND STRUGGLE. OUR NATION MUST BE MADE STRONG ENOUGH SO THAT NO COUNTRY CAN HUMILIATE IT." JUDGING BY COMMENTS OF EMBASSY CONTACTS, CKSP'S ANALYSIS IS WIDELY SHARED AMONG THOUGHTFUL BUSINESSMEN, BUREAUCRATS, AND ACADEMICS. SO FAR WE HAVE LITTLE MILITARY REACTION.

3. IN COMMENTING INFORMALLY ON COMMUNIQUE TEXT, SENIOR MOFA OFFICIAL WONDERED WHETHER ABSENCE OF ANY REITERATION OF US INTEREST IN PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF TAIWAN PROBLEM WAS SIGNIFICANT. NOTING COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE RE "CONCRETE CONSULTATIONS ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN", HE COMMENTED SADLY THAT IS APPEARED TO HIM US WAS SLOWLY SLIDING INTO ALLIANCE WITH PRC. WHILE NO MOFA OFFICIAL HAS YET ASKED FOR EMBASSY VIEW OR INTERPRETATION OF "CONFIRMING PRINCIPLE OF ONE CHINA" LANGUAGE, NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR HAS ASKED INFORMALLY WHETHER MOFA MIGHT BE PROVIDED WITH TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY'S TOKYO BACKGROUNDER.
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